

NEWS RELEASE



*Office of the United States Attorney
Western District of Louisiana*

DONALD W. WASHINGTON
United States Attorney

United States Courthouse • 300 Fannin Street, Suite 3201 • Shreveport, Louisiana 71101-3068 • (318) 676-3600
United States Courthouse • 800 Lafayette Street, Suite 2200 • Lafayette, Louisiana 70501-7206 • (337) 262-6618

For Immediate Release

July 19, 2006

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/law>

Contact: Donald W. Washington (337-262-6618)

William J. Flanagan (318-676-3600)

DRUG TRAFFICKERS SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT

Pair from Lake Charles will be spending next few years behind bars

Lake Charles, Louisiana . . . U.S. Attorney Donald W. Washington announced today that two defendants from Lake Charles, Louisiana were sentenced today before United States District Judge Patricia Minaldi for their involvement in a cocaine distribution ring.

LARRY JAMES BIGELOW, age 24, was sentenced to 8 years federal imprisonment to be followed by 4 years supervised release.

LACREASIA SHONTEL PAYNE, age 32, from Lake Charles, Louisiana, was sentenced to 5 years 10 months federal imprisonment to be followed by 4 years supervised release.

PAYNE, BIGELOW, and two others (Patrick Mayo and Deidra Taylor) were arrested in March 2005 after distributing 13 grams of crack cocaine in Lake Charles. PAYNE and BIGELOW both pled guilty in March 2006 to distribution of crack cocaine. The four defendants were indicted in June 2005 following an

investigation by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency's (DEA) Mobile Enforcement Team. The Mobile Enforcement Team is typically requested by community leaders in order to address significant drug trafficking activities in their communities.

Patrick Mayo was sentenced in March 2006 to 15 years and 10 months federal imprisonment. Deidra Taylor was sentenced in June 2005 to 5 years federal imprisonment.

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. United States Sentencing Guidelines established by the United States Congress and the United States Sentencing Commission may only be used as guidelines by the judge. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Todd Clemons.

##